THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, the 20th December 1947.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

House-sites for the Harijans in Nandigama taluk.

* 208-A. *Q.*—SRI H. M. JAGANNATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any application has been made to the Government through the Labour Department for the acquisition of house-sites for the Harijans in Nandigama taluk, Kistna district;

(*b*) if so, who are the applicants and when was the application made; and

(*c*) why the acquisition proceedings were kept in abeyance since the last two years?

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA :—" (*a*) Two petitions were received direct by the Government from the Harijans.

" (*b*) & (*c*) One was from the Harijans of Kanchakacherla and it was received on the 4th August 1947 and the other from the Harijans of Konakanchi village and was received on the 16th September 1947. The remarks of the Collector of Kistna have been called for on these petitions and his reply is awaited."

SRI H. M. JAGANNATHAN :—" May I know whether it is a fact that the land is owned by a very influential Congress leader who has been putting a stop to the acquisition of the land? "

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA :—" The information is not available and I do not know."

Quantity of wheat flour received for this Province.

* 209 *Q.*—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) the quantity of wheat flour received in the first ten months of this year for our Province;

(*b*) the quantity given to the Madras City and the districts (information may be given districtwar); and

(*c*) whether the Government have received representations that the bakeries in the mufassal have been completely closed down and that patients are experiencing difficulties in securing bread for their diet?

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (a) Five hundred tons. The entire quantity was received in September 1947.

" (b) Madras City, Trichinopoly and Coimbatore were given 200, 50 and 40 tons respectively, Vizagapatam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Cuddapah, Chittoor, North Arcot, Tanjore, South Kanara and Nilgiris got 20 tons each; and Chingleput, South Arcot and Tinnevelly got 10 tons each.

" (c) Yes."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know why was not other districts given some quota of wheat flour, namely, Bellary, Anantapur, Kurnool and others? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" These are all rationed out according to the scales allotted to each district, and the scales are made out according to the demand in the previous years."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Are the Government not aware that a number of North Indian people reside in Bellary and they require wheat flour? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is rationed according to previous calculations made; and such of those demands that are on our register are being satisfied by the quota allotted. Sometimes when we don't get the quota and we don't get imports we are not in a position to distribute wheat flour."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In order to have a more equitable distribution of wheat flour will the Government send it only to places where there are bakeries instead of compelling the bakeries to close down as was done in Bellary? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The trouble is we do not have enough stock, and only when we get quota we give priority to those districts where there is a large demand and it is necessary to meet particular demands."

Alleged refusal to carry Harijan passengers by bus.

*210 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Mettupalayam-Coonoor Bus service operating in Coimbatore district refused to carry Harijan passengers;

(b) whether there was a written complaint about this to the Regional Transport Officer, Coimbatore; and

(c) what action has been taken against the bus company?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (a) to (c) In August 1947, a petition was received purporting to be signed by nine scavengers of Ootacamund and alleging that they were refused accommodation in the bus. An enquiry was made on this petition by the Regional Transport Officer, Coimbatore, and he reported that the signatories could not be traced and